

Adviser on Defense, Foreign Policy Goes To Ford Foundation

By GARNETT D. HORNER
Star Staff Writer

AUSTIN, Tex. — President Johnson today accepted "with genuine regret" the resignation of McGeorge Bundy as his special assistant for national security affairs, to be effective next Feb. 28.

Bundy, 46, is leaving his \$28,500 a year White House job to become president of the Ford Foundation at \$75,000 a year.

White House press secretary Bill D. Moyers indicated that if a successor to Bundy is named, he will not have as wide-ranging responsibility and authority as an adviser to the President on foreign and defense policies as Bundy has had.

Asked if the President intends to fill the vacancy that will be created by Bundy's departure, Moyers pointed out that Bundy will not be leaving until Feb. 28 and "this gives the President plenty of time to decide what to do about that position."

Sees More Direct Contacts

Moyers added that he is sure the President will have direct contacts with "increasing frequency" with members of his administration involved in foreign affairs.

Moyers said this increasing direct contact would extend to subordinates in the State and Defense Departments as well as to Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

This would be consistent, he said, with "the way the President has been trying to build the role of the departments throughout the government."

The President feels, Moyers emphasized, that "under our system the Cabinet positions are the ones to which the President must look for major responsibility in carrying out their programs."



McGEORGE BUNDY

The implication from what Moyers said seemed to be that Johnson intends to make sure that no one will have any excuse to consider Bundy's successor—if there is one—as a rival to the Secretary of State in advising Johnson on foreign affairs.

Komer Moves to Spotlight

Speculation on a successor centered today on Robert W. Komer, recently named a deputy to Bundy. Komer accompanied Bundy to the LBJ Ranch yesterday, with Rusk and McNamara, for a wide-ranging discussion of national security matters with the President.

In recent weeks others rumored for the job include Moyers himself, Walt W. Rostow, head of the State Department policy planning staff; William P. Bundy, assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs and McGeorge's brother; and John T. McNaughton, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs.

The President scheduled conferences at his ranch home with key officials Friday and Saturday on their budget requests for the 1967 fiscal year starting next July 1.

He plans to review defense budget needs Saturday in a meeting with McNamara, Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Six Others Coming

Six other officials are due at the ranch Friday for discussions centering primarily on budgets for their agencies.

The Friday conferees include Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission; James Webb, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor; Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman; Dr. Donald Hornig, the President's science adviser, and Budget Bureau Director Charles Schultze.

The President set the stage for coming to grips with the defense budget, going up because of the expanding Viet Nam war, in his conference yesterday with McNamara, Rusk, Bundy and Komer.

In the meetings yesterday, Moyers said the group also discussed:

1. Problems that will confront the meeting of NATO foreign and defense ministers in Paris Dec. 14-16.

2. Issues the President will talk about with Pakistan President Ayub Khan, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard on their visits to the United States next week.

Johnson plans to return to Washington sometime over the weekend to meet there with the Pakistan President next Tuesday and Wednesday.

His conference with Wilson, scheduled for Friday, Dec. 17, also is expected to be set for Washington.

There appeared to be some chance that the site of the Johnson-Erhard meetings Dec. 19-21, announced as the LBJ Ranch, may be changed to Washington, too.

Rusk and McNamara, Moyers said, plan to leave Sunday for the NATO Council meeting in Paris. So neither will be on hand for the President's conference with Ayub Khan.

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